

DOL awards Arkansas a \$5.9 million training grant

The Department of Workforce Services, in collaboration with other state agencies, two-year colleges and Local Workforce Investment Boards, recently received a \$5,935,402 Community-based Job Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The grant will be used to train and place workers in locally identified high growth and high demand industries in the Delta region. Between 2,000 and 3,000 new manufacturing jobs requiring skilled workers will be needed by automotive and advanced manufacturing industries in this region.

The two-year colleges will partner with industries in the region to validate skill and competency requirements for workers and to develop curricula to meet the needs. They will hire faculty to provide the skills training and purchase up-to-date training equipment.

The two Workforce Investment Boards will provide assistance with training assessments, training programs and the placement of trained workers.

Workers will participate in an Educational Pathway to Advanced Manufacturing Training/Certification. Certifications include the following:

- Certificate of Proficiency.
- Technical Certificate.
- Associate of Applied Science Degree.
- Bachelor of Science Degree.

The grant program builds on the president's High Growth Job Training Initiative, which is designed to better prepare workers with skills needed to take advantage of career opportunities in growth sectors of the American economy.

DWS collaborated with the following organizations when applying for the grant:

- Arkansas Department of Economic Development.
- Arkansas Department of Workforce Education.
- Arkansas Workforce Investment Board.
- Eastern Arkansas Workforce Investment Board.
- Northeast Arkansas Workforce Board.
- Arkansas Northeastern College.
- East Arkansas Community College.
- Mid-South Community College.
- Phillips County Community College of the University of Arkansas.